

B1

(i) contacting the compound with a taste cell specific G-protein beta polypeptide, the polypeptide comprising greater than 70% amino acid sequence identity to an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:3 or SEQ ID NO:5; and

(ii) determining the functional effect of the compound upon the polypeptide.

B2

20. (once amended) A method for identifying a compound that modulates taste signaling in taste cells, the method comprising the steps of:

(i) expressing a taste cell specific G-protein beta polypeptide in a host cell, wherein the G-protein beta polypeptide has greater than 70% amino acid sequence identity to a polypeptide having a sequence of SEQ ID NO:3 or SEQ ID NO:5;

(ii) expressing a promiscuous G-protein alpha polypeptide and a taste cell specific G-protein coupled receptor in the host cell,

(iii) contacting the host cell with the compound that modulates taste signaling in taste; and

(iv) determining changes in intracellular calcium levels in the host cell, thereby identifying the compound that modulates taste signaling in taste cells.

REMARKS

With this amendment, claims 1-20 are pending in the application. For convenience, the Examiner's rejections are addressed in the order in which they were presented in the October 2, 2002 Office Action. Appendix A provides the "Version with Markings to Show Changes Made." All pending claims are provided in Appendix B.

Applicants note that the mailing address for future correspondence from the PTO to Applicants undersigned attorney should be corrected (*see, e.g.*, the power of attorney mailed to the PTO on March 5, 2001, copy attached hereto). There has been no change in correspondence address since the filing of the application. All correspondence should be sent to "Townsend and Townsend and Crew, LLP."